

STANDING ORDER

EAR PROBLEMS

I. ASSESSMENT

- A. Obtain subjective complaints of pain and history of ear problems.
- B. Examine ear with otoscope, assess cerumen (color, consistency, is the canal impacted?), drainage, redness, swelling.
- C. Take vital signs, including temperature.

II. MANAGEMENT

- A. If earwax present, use Debrox drops or equivalent, following instructions on package. Instruct inmate to notify Facility Nurse if symptoms persist.
- B. If external otitis present (lesions, exudate) refer to Facility Provider.
- C. If otitis media is suspected, contact Facility Provider for medication orders.
- D. If earwax plug is visible and there is no pain or fever, insert Debrox eardrops for four (4) days following instructions on package, then irrigate ear with a solution of 50% hydrogen peroxide and 50% warm water on day five (5).
- E. If concern for perforated tympanic membrane, do not irrigate and schedule inmate to see Facility Provider at earliest availability.

III. EVALUATION

- A. If symptoms persist, contact Facility Provider for instructions.